

*Nature Notes from Yellowstone Park*, Vol. III, No. 3, dated March 30, 1926, was received early in April. This mimeographed leaflet contains much valuable matter which deserves regular publication, and which should not be left with anonymous authorship.

Secretary Gloyd spent two weeks early in April with a party of herpetologists, under the leadership of Dr. Frank N. Blanchard, of the University of Michigan, in a collecting expedition through southern Louisiana and Alabama.

Wm. G. Fargo of Jackson, Michigan, spent the spring at Pass-a-Grille, Florida. He writes saying, "The rapid settlement of Florida and the real estate 'development' are driving the birds from localities where they were very numerous in previous years." It seems to be inevitable.

The Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, of the University of California, has issued a pocket list of the birds of the Berkeley Campus. This check-list includes a total of 135 kinds of birds which have been observed on the campus by competent observers up to May 20, 1925.

The Sixth International Ornithological Congress was held at Copenhagen, Denmark, on May 24-26, under the auspices of the Danish Ornithological Society.

"Ornithological Note. To the Editor of *The Nation*: Sir: Claude McKay is a real poet, and I sympathize with him being homesick in France, but he is off in his ornithology. I have seen a million quail run, but I never saw one hop. Upton Sinclair." From *The Nation*, April 21, 1926.

Mr. George Miksch Sutton is spending the present summer in the Hudson Bay region in ornithological work.

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## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

BIRDS OF THE AUSTIN REGION. By George Finlay Simmons. Published by the University of Texas, Austin. 1925. Price, \$4.00.

This well-bound book of xlvii + 387 pages makes a very substantial contribution to Texas ornithology; in fact it may serve as a very helpful reference book for bird students beyond this state. The first forty-six pages are devoted to various general discussions, including the facts of physiography, meteorology, and ecology to a limited extent. We find also a very interesting collection of brief biographies of Texas bird students.

The descriptive catalogue which follows contains 294 species or subspecies, each of which is quite fully annotated as to geographical distribution, habitat, local haunts, general habits, feeding habits, flight, voice, courtship, nest and eggs, technical description and plumage peculiarities, etc. The observations and remarks under the topic of "voice" on the songs and call notes of the various species are especially complete and interesting.

While the nomenclature is not the most important feature in a work of this kind, yet it has certain far-reaching bearings which deserve attention. In glancing over the first fifty forms in the bird list we note that there are seventeen departures from the A. O. U. Check-list and Supplements, and apparently many other departures occur beyond.

The author states, in the introductory pages, that he has followed the nomenclature of the Third A. O. U. Check-list and the Sixteenth (1912) and the Seventeenth (1920) Supplements, but that recognition is given "to such changes in genera as are justified by recent careful investigations in avian anatomy." (Page xxxii). And again from the same page we quote: "Several geographical races, which the Committee,\* with its general policy of conservation, [conservatism?] has seen proper to reject, are also included, for the reason that in the opinion of various careful students of geographical distribution and variation, such forms are valid and worthy of recognition."

Perhaps it is unfortunate that this committee has failed to inspire greater confidence. But, nevertheless, we believe that such a committee is very essential to the welfare of American ornithology—at least until some other authority is established. Without such authority our nomenclature will go from bad to worse very quickly. Granting that such an authority is needed and does exist, it seems clear that we are in duty bound to observe and obey its regulations. That is simply a principle of good government. If changes in nomenclature are desired let them come by proper legislation. If there is to be any nomenclatural stability whatever, we believe it must come by unanimous recognition of properly organized and centralized authority. Nothing will so quickly carry us back into the middle ages of ornithology than for authors to follow their own opinions and preferences.

Aside from this matter of nomenclature and a few typographical errors we believe this volume is highly meritorious, and a credit to the author and the State.—T. C. S.

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### EXCHANGE NOTICES

This department will be inserted from time to time as there may be demand for it. It is intended at present to accept only notices for exchange of books, magazines, and ornithological literature. No charge will be made to members for these insertions. We desire especially to assist members in completing their files of the WILSON BULLETIN.

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WANTED: Wilson Bulletin Numbers 15 and 22, New Series.

FOR SALE: Wilson Bulletin Numbers 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57. Clarence Bretsch, 690 Broadway, Gary, Indiana.

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WANTED: O & O Semi-Annual, No. 1 of Vol. 1. Will pay a reasonable cash price for same. W. I. Mitchell, M. D., Paonia, Colorado.

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WANTED: Bulletin of Michigan Ornithological Club, Nos. 3 and 4 in each of Vols. IV, V, and VI; if in good order will pay 50 cents each. I have for exchange Vol. I, Nos. 1, 3, and 4; Vol. II, No. 1. I also want Wilson Bulletin, March, 1923. Wm. G. Fargo, 506 Union Street, Jackson, Michigan.

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BUY YOUR BIRD GLASSES from a bird-man who guarantees satisfaction after a weeks' trial or refunds your money. Anything from a Zeiss down. Field glasses \$5 up; 8-power stereo-prism binoculars \$15 up. Price list upon application. J. Alden Loring, Box W, O-we-go, Tioga Co., N. Y.

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\*The A. O. U. Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North American Birds.